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GREAT HARWOOD
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health
and Sanitary Inspector



FOR THE YEAR

1952

GREAT HARWOOD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

on the

HEALTH AND SANITARY ADMINISTRATION

OF THE DISTRICT for the year 1952

R. C. WEBSTER,
Medical Officer of Health.

G. WALMSLEY,
Sanitary Inspector and
Cleansing Superintendent.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

1952-1953

Chairman :

Councillor W. RUTTER, J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

Councillor C. E. NORMINGTON.

Committee :

Councillors G. A. Monckman, J.P., H. Doswell, A. M. Sagar, W. Slynn, W. Pidgeon, E. Whalley, J. Wyatt, T. Henderson, W. T. Pickup, F. Ainsworth.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Administrative Staff

**Medical Officer of Health and
Divisional Medical Officer of Health (No. 5 Division) :**

R. C. WEBSTER, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.

Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent :

G. WALMSLEY, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerical Assistant :

Mrs Y. J. MURRAY.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of Great Harwood.

The death rate for the year was somewhat lower than in the two preceding years, and no particular cause calls for special mention. The birth rate showed a rise on last year, but there was still a slight decline in population.

The incidence of infectious disease was in general low, but, as in 1950 and 1951, whooping cough was very prevalent.

Infant mortality was somewhat higher, but in five of the seven deaths prematurity or congenital abnormality was responsible, and these conditions are not yet completely understood or under control. In the other two, full care had been taken, and these deaths also may fairly be regarded as not preventable.

The year may, I think, be summed up as satisfactory, but the water supply gives grounds for uneasiness, and in the report for 1953 I hope to be able to refer to this matter with more satisfaction.

Again I thank Mr. Walmsley and his staff and the Clerk of the Council for cordial co-operation, and yourself, Mr. Chairman, and Committee for their interest and help throughout the year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

R. C. WEBSTER,

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

General

Area in acres	2,868
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1952	3,844
Rateable value	£65,630
Sum represented by a penny rate	£258
Population at 1951 census	10,738
Estimated population for 1952	10,710
The principal industries are cotton weaving and light engineering trades, etc.	

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

	Males		Females		Total
Legitimate	71	.....	71	.....	142
Illegitimate	1	.....	1	.....	2
Total	144				
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 est. pop.					14.1

Still Births

	Males		Females		Total
Legitimate	5	.....	1	.....	6
Illegitimate .....	—	.....	—	.....	—
Total	6				
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 est. pop.					0.56

Deaths

	Males		Females		Total
Deaths	85	.....	93	.....	178
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population :					
Crude					16.6
Adjusted					14.0
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population :					
(England and Wales)					11.3

Infant Mortality

Infants under the age of one year :

	Males		Females		Total
Legitimate	4	.....	3	.....	7
Illegitimate ...	—	.....	"	... ..	—
Total .	.....		7		

Comparative Birth Rates, Civilian Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality, and Case Rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1952.

Births

Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population

	England and Wales	160 County Borough and Great Towns (including London)	160 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000—50,000 at 1951 Census)	Great Harwood U.D.C.
Live Births	15.30	16.90	15.50	14.10
Still Births	0.35	0.43	0.36	0.56

Deaths

All causes	11.30	12.10	11.20	14.00
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.24	0.28	0.22	0.19
Influenza	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.00
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Acute Poliomyelitis & Polioencephalitis ...	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Pneumonia	0.47	0.52	0.43	0.80

Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population

	England and Wales	160 County Borough and Great Towns (including London)	160 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000—50,000 at 1951 Census)	Great Harwood U.D.C.
Notifications (Corrected)				
Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever ...	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.00
Meningococcal Infection	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.00
Scarlet Fever	1.53	1.75	1.58	1.50
Whooping Cough	2.61	2.74	2.57	6.91
Diphtheria	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.00
Erysipelas	0.14	0.15	0.12	0.19
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	8.86	10.11	8.49	0.48
Pneumonia	0.72	0.80	0.62	0.19
Acute Poliomyelitis (inc. Polioencepha- litis)—				
Paralytic	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.00
Non-Paralytic	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.00
Food Poisoning	0.13	0.16	0.11	0.00

Deaths

Rates per 1,000 Live Births

All causes under 1 year of age	27.60	31.20	25.80	49.00
Enteritis & Diarrhoea under 2 y'rs of age	1.10	1.30	0.50	0.00

Notifications (Corrected)

Rates per 1,000 Live and Still Births

Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	17.87	23.94	10.22	0.00
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GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICE

Laboratory Facilities

All Pathological and Bacteriological work for the Health Department is carried out at Blackburn Royal Infirmary. I wish to thank Dr. Spink and his staff for their assistance and advice during the year. Sputum examinations for Tuberculosis were carried out at the dispensary situated in Accrington.

Ambulance Service

This service is administered by the No. 5 Health Division of the Lancashire County Council. Two ambulances and one sitting-case car are available for the district. The ambulance station is day-manned, and night calls are dealt with by the ambulance station at Accrington.

Tuberculosis

The administration is carried out by the Lancashire County Council and Regional Hospital Board, and co-operation is maintained through the Public Health Department. Disinfection of articles and premises is carried out when necessary.

Eight cases were removed from the register during the year, the causes of removal being as follows :

Deaths from Tuberculosis	2
Deaths from other causes	Nil
Diagnosis not confirmed	Nil
Recovered	4
Removed	2

Ages	New Cases				Deaths			
	M. Respiratory	F. Respiratory	M. Non-Respiratory	F. Non-Respiratory	M. Respiratory	F. Respiratory	M. Non-Respiratory	F. Non-Respiratory
0-1	-	-	...	-	-	-	...	-
1	-	-	...	-	-	-	...	-
2	-	-	...	-	-	-	...	-
5	1	-	...	1	1	-	...	-
10	-	-	...	-	-	-	...	-
15	-	1	...	-	-	-	...	-
20	1	1	...	-	-	-	...	-
25	1	-	...	-	1	-	...	-
35	-	1	...	-	-	-	...	-
45	1	-	...	-	-	-	...	-
55	-	-	...	-	-	-	...	-
65	1	-	...	-	1	-	...	-
75 & upwards	-	-	...	-	-	-	...	-
	5	3	...	1	1	2	-	-

Number of cases on the register at 31/12/52 ... 63

Pulmonary		...	Non-Pulmonary	
M.	F.		M.	F.
24	20		10	9

Infectious Diseases

The following table shows the number of infectious diseases notified :—

	Total	Deaths
Measles	5	Nil
Whooping Cough	74	Nil
Pneumonia	2	Nil
Dysentery	1	Nil
Scarlet Fever	16	Nil
Erysipelas	2	Nil

Diphtheria

No cases of diphtheria were reported during the year. The diphtheria immunisation administration is carried out by the Divisional Health Authority.

Home Help

The Home Help Service is administered by the Divisional Health Authority.

Maternity and Child Welfare

A weekly clinic is held at the Mercer Hall for children under five years, and a pre-natal clinic is held once a fortnight. The duties are under the control of the Divisional Health Authority.

Day Nurseries

There are two day nurseries in the town administered by the Divisional Health Authority.

Water Supply

Sixty-six samples were taken for bacteriological examination, six samples being unsatisfactory.

Drainage

A new 9in. sewer extension was commenced to drain a part of the district. When completed, the sewer will dispense with six septic tanks and 10 pail closets, and in addition the sewer will minimise the risk of water pollution.

Public Baths

There are no public swimming baths in the district.

**SERVICES PROVIDED BY OTHER AUTHORITIES
AVAILABLE TO GREAT HARWOOD**

- (a) Divisional Health Committee (Office at 19, St. James Street, Accrington. Tel. : Accrington 4223).

Divisional Medical Officer : Dr. R. C. Webster.

Ante-Natal Clinics : Mercer Hall, Great Harwood. Alternate Thursday morning.

County Clinic : High Street, Rishton. First and third Wednesday each month.

Child Welfare Clinic : Mercer Hall, Great Harwood, All day every Wednesday. Immunisation and U.V.R. by appointment.

Health Visitor : Miss S. V. Hitchen, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.

District Nurse : Miss Oldale, S.R.N., Queen's Nurse.

Midwife : Mrs. Izatt, S.C.M., S.R.N.

For the following, enquiries to be made at the Divisional Office:
Day Nurseries ; Domestic Helps ; Mental Health Service ;
Accommodation for the elderly (not sick) persons.

- (b) Divisional Education Executive : Divisional Medical Officer, Dr. R. C. Webster.

School medical routine and special examinations.

Minor ailment clinic every Friday morning.

Ophthalmic and Orthopaedic Clinic (by appointment) at High Street, Rishton.

Causes of Death

	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	0	2
Tuberculosis, others	0	0	0
Syphilitic diseases	1	0	1
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Meningococcal infections	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0
Other infectious and parasitic diseases	0	0	0
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	4	9
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	1	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	2	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms...	8	2	10
Leukæmia, alukæmia	1	0	1
Diabetes	1	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	8	16	24
Coronary disease, angina	8	6	14
Hypertension with heart disease	7	0	7
Other heart diseases	17	33	50
Other circulatory diseases	4	1	5
Influenza	1	0	1
Pneumonia	4	5	9
Bronchitis	1	4	5
Other diseases of the respiratory system.....	1	0	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	0	3
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhœa	0	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	0	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	0	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	0	0	0
Congenital malformation	3	1	4
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	10	14
Motor vehicle accidents	0	0	0
All other accidents	1	2	3
Suicide	2	1	3
Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0
All causes—Total	85	93	178

GREAT HARWOOD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

and

CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT

**TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
HEALTH COMMITTEE**

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my report on the sanitary conditions of the district for the year 1952. Much of the work done during the year has been of a routine nature, and although some slight improvement has been made in housing repairs, a great deal of repair work is still required. Fortunately, the town has no slum areas, and unfit dwelling-houses are dealt with under the provisions of Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Up to date, 20 dwelling-houses are subject to demolition orders, and 7 of these premises are now vacant.

In many cases the serving of repair notices has resulted in the owners selling their houses to sitting tenants rather than face the cost of extensive repairs. It is apparent that until the rent problem is settled there can be no marked improvement in the state of many dwelling-houses, the chief requirements being the conversion of obsolete waste water closets and the installing of hot water and baths.

During the year a food hygiene course was held in conjunction with the St. John Ambulance Corps. The attendance was very poor, and until more interest is shown in the principles of hygienic food preparation and handling, the incidence of food poisoning will not be reduced.

In this, my fifth annual report, I wish to thank the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their support, and I am also grateful for the assistance extended to me during the year by the Council's Officials and staff.

Yours faithfully,

G. WALMSLEY,

Sanitary Inspector.

MEAT AND FOOD SUPERVISION

Meat Inspection

The slaughter of pigs is carried out at a private slaughterhouse, and the following table presents a report of the activities during the year.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

Number killed	3532
Number inspected	3532
All Diseases except Tuberculosis—	
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	3.7%
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	132
Tuberculosis only—	
Whole carcasses condemned	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	304
Percentage of the number inspected with tuberculosis	8.0%

Unsound Food

Tinned Milk	45
Tinned Fruit	116
Tinned Meat and Fish	91
Tinned Vegetables	4
Tinned Soup	2
Bacon	13½lbs.
Tomato Sauce	10 btl.
Rabbits	144lbs.
Cheese	1 box
Rice	28lbs.

Milk and Dairies

Number of Farms	17
Ungraded Producers	9
Accredited Producers	3
"T.T." Producers	5

Sampling Milk

	Methylene Blue Test			Phosphatase Test			Tubercle Bacilli Test	
	Sat.	Unsat.		Sat.	Unsat.		Neg.	Pos.
" T.T. "	5	0	...	—	—	...	4	—
Accredited	2	0	...	0	0	...	2	0
Ungraded	9	3	...	0	0	...	12	0
Pasteurised	0	0	...	1	0	...	1	0
	16	3	...	1	0	...	19	0

Food and Drugs Sampling

The Lancashire County Council sampling officers took the following samples during the year, in addition to 48 samples of milk.

2 fish canned.	1 oatmeal.
1 margarine.	1 compound liquorice powder.
1 soup canned.	2 sulphur ointment.
1 table jelly.	1 coffee.
1 rabbit canned.	1 meat paste.
1 golden raising powder.	

All the samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine, with the exception of the following :—

1 formal milk.	Deficient 3.3 per cent. fat	Same vendor.
1 formal milk.	Deficient 6.6 per cent. fat and the freezing point indicated the presence of 4 per cent. of extraneous water.	Vendor cautioned and further samples obtained.
1 formal milk.	Freezing point indicated the presence of 1.3 per cent. of extraneous water.	Vendor cautioned.
1 formal milk.	Deficient 6.6 per cent. fat, 9.1 per cent. solids—not fat, and the freezing point indicated the presence of 2.5 per cent of extraneous water.	
1 formal milk	Deficient of 19.2 per cent. solids—not fat, and the freezing point indicated the presence of 11 per cent. of extraneous water.	Vendor fined £6 and 5gns. costs.

ICE CREAM REGULATIONS

Manufacturers (hot-mix)	2
Manufacturers (cold-mix)	Nil
Vendors (shops, etc.)	28
Hawkers	1

WATER SUPPLY

Raw Water Samples

Bacteriological Examinations	33
Chemical Analyses	3

Treated Water Samples

Bacteriological Examinations	66
Chemical Analyses	3

HOUSING INSPECTIONS

Unfit Dwelling Houses

1	(a)	Number of houses inspected for defects under Public Health and Housing Acts	243
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	422
2	(a)	Number of houses inspected under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	8
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	20
3	(a)	Number of houses found to be in such a state as to be unfit for human habitation	6
	(b)	Number of houses, excluding 3 (a) above, found not in all respects fit for human habitation	61
		Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	64

Actions under Statutory Powers

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—			
1		Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	16
2.		Number of dwelling-houses which after service of formal notices were rendered fit	
	(a)	By owners	12
	(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	3
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—			
1.		Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	3
2.		Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
	(a)	By owners	3
	(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	2

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

Smoke Abatement

From observations taken on a number of factory chimneys, it was apparent that no excessive smoke emission was taking place. No byelaws are in force in the district, and, due to the uncertainty of a supply of suitable fuels, it is doubtful whether byelaws would at present serve any useful purpose. It is regretted that many of the new domestic stoves and appliances have to be fired with unsuitable fuel due to the shortage of smokeless fuel, and there is no doubt that much pollution is caused by domestic chimneys.

Sanitary Accommodation

Forty waste water closets were converted to fresh water closets, and a grant of £8 was paid for each conversion. There are 2,092 waste water closets, 28 pail closets and 1,846 fresh water closets in the district. The pail closets are situated on the outskirts of the town and are emptied weekly.

Factories

There are 99 factories on the register, and 76 visits were made during the year. Sanitary accommodation called for the most attention, and informal action only was required to remedy the defects.

Rodent Control

A part-time rodent operator is employed, and the following details show the amount of work carried out during the year :

Properties inspected	129
Rat infestations found	105
Mice infestations found	10

In addition, tips, river banks, etc., were treated for rat infestation, and a full sewer maintenance treatment was undertaken.

Tents, Vans, etc.

A few isolated caravans were visited during the year, and one unauthorised camping site was discontinued under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Acts.

Public Cleansing

A weekly collection of refuse is carried out, and two nine-cubic-yard side loading vehicles are used. The gully emptier has done excellent work and has been on loan to neighbouring authorities. No trouble was experienced in the disposal of refuse, which is by means of controlled tipping at Hyndburn Tip.

The supplying of galvanised dustbins by the Health Department was continued, and this procedure enables a standard dustbin to be almost universally used. Only $2\frac{1}{2}$ -cubic-feet bins are now sold, and these are quite adequate for a weekly storage of refuse. The bins are stronger, lighter, and can be handled better by the refuse loaders, thus making the work less arduous in addition to increasing the life of the bin.

A range of three shower baths was installed in the depot for the use of the cleansing department employees, and the showers should be a welcome amenity, as many of the workmen's homes have no fixed bath.

Salvage

During 1952 a big change took place in the salvage market. Waste paper dropped from £16 0s. 0d. to £6 10s. 0d. per ton, and it was difficult to dispose of waste paper in any quantity. After extensive publicity the previous year, urging the collection of salvage, it was disappointing to see loads of waste paper being deposited on the tip, and it is hoped that in future a steady market will be available for the disposal of waste paper.

The tonnage and receipts from the sale of waste paper during the last four years are as follows :

	T.	C.	Q.		£	s.	d.
1952	98	9	3	.....	980	16	7
1951	137	1	3	.....	2023	0	0
1950	98	12	0	.....	545	0	0
1949	70	18	2	.....	443	0	0

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Public Health and Housing Act

Housing Defects

Inspections	121
Re-visits	174

Sundry Defects

Inspections	176
Re-visits	190
Overcrowding	6

General

Accumulations	88
Drainage	252
Defective Bins	33
Public Conveniences	35
Rats and Mice	112
Refuse Collection and Disposal	79
Salvage	38
Schools	24
Shops	114
Smoke Observations	22
Animals	28
Miscellaneous	203

Factories

Inspections	25
Re-visits	45

Infectious Diseases

Inquiries	38
Disinfections	39

Food Premises

Bakehouses	45
Butchers	27
Dairies	11
Fish Fryers	37
Fruiterers	33
Farms	20
Ice Cream	9
Market Stalls	2
Cafes	14
Unsound Food	78

CLEANSING SERVICE

Table showing costs for the year ending 31st March, 1952

Items	Particulars	Refuse Collection including Nightsoil Removal	Refuse Disposal	Salvage	Street Cleansing including Gully Cleaning, Street Sweeping (District)
A	Gross Expenditure	£2,846	£581	£523	£847
B	Gross Income	£116	Nil	£729	Nil
C	Net Cost	£2,730	£581	£206	£847
D	Net cost per 1,000 houses or premises	£677	£144	Nil	Nil
E	Net cost per 1,000 population	£262	£54	Nil	Nil
F	Net cost; equivalent rate in the £	10.5	2.2	Nil	3.2
G	Percentage of F to total rates in the £	3.8%	.81%	Nil	1.18%

